



Capital City Capers

The News Organ of the Capital City Squares



Member Club
of the
I. A. G. S. D. C.

Willkommen, Bienvenu, Welcome!

This is a special Welcome to new dancers and welcome back to old friends issue. In it you will find informative articles about the club and issues of concern to the club. We want you to get to know us while you are learning to square dance and while we are getting to know you. We hope that the enthusiasm and energy you showed at the New Dancers Hoedown on August 26 will carry over to this year's new dancers class. I hope in this article to give you an overall view of what you are getting yourself into and the life-long learning and fun you can have in our club.

Capital City Squares was organized as a predominantly gay square dance club 8 years ago and is a member of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs (I.A.G.S.D.C.), which holds an annual convention you should really plan on attending. Last July it was held in New York City; this coming April it will be held in Vancouver, B.C. If you go to the convention in Vancouver, you will have a lot of fun, meet even more great people, and find that you have been very well prepared to "dance with the best of them."

This preparation to dance well is the main business of our club and these activities are organized by our Board of Directors (see our Bylaws and "The C.E.O. Speaks" in this issue). We learn the square dance calls (steps, formations, etc.) on our Tuesday class night from 6:30 or 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the William Land School (12th and V streets). Karl Murray is our main caller-instructor. You saw him in action at the New Dancers Hoedown at Clunie Center in August. Ably filling in for Karl at times is Robin Alpenglow, who conducts our fun night dances every other Wednesday at Joseph's Town and Country Inn (Bus. 80 and Howe Avenue). In other words, you learn the calls on Tuesdays with Karl and are able to practice them in a more relaxed atmosphere every other Wednesday. Another instructor is Kris Corbridge, who conducts our Plus class, which follows your Basic-Mainstream class Tuesdays at the William Land School. Kris also is sometimes roped into filling in for Karl or Robin.

Square dancing is organized by levels. The first level is called Mainstream. Mainstream is divided into Basic, the first 49 calls, and Mainstream proper, another 19 calls, bringing you up to 68 calls in all. Your goal this fall and winter should be to learn these 68 calls. With these calls under your belt, you can go anywhere and square dance. The next 28 calls

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Greetings and salutations! On this most auspicious occasion, that being the advent of yet another year of that fine and glorious tradition of square dancing, let me take a moment, as CEO (or some such embellishing title), to wish each and every one a productive and happy season.

There, was that pompous enough? Are you suitably impressed by the tone and timbre? I do hope so. ONWARD!

Well, scouts, summer has just about flown the coop, we're back at William Land School (12th & V Streets), we've a grand new crop of anxious, expectant future square dancers, and many of our "strayed-for-the-summer" devotees are back, not to mention the continued attendance of us die-hards. Welcome, one and all. I'm very glad you're here. This year promises to be bigger 'n' better than last year. We have learned a lot; we have a lot to learn. Let's get to it and do it (rah! rah!)!

Perhaps a bit o' background — You will find a number of topics touched upon in this "inaugural" issue, some repeats, some new stuff, and perhaps a bit of newsworthiness (we hope).... I have been asked to do a blurb on the board (in hopes, I think, that if my

topic is defined, I might be brief—fooled you!). This assumes that I know something about the board. I'll just make it up as I go along and later claim I was misquoted! Board members are yours truly, Bill, Mary Jo, Rick, and Cindy (elected members), and Kris and Karl (instructors). But, then, what is the board, why does it exist, what does it do, can I be a part of it, do I want to be? These and other questions will be promptly ignored.... Somewhat seriously, the board has a purpose, a method, a "reason for being," and an opportunity for everyone to get involved. The bylaws give you an overview of the board, the whats, wheres, and whys, but the 'nitty-gritty' is at an easier-to-understand level. The basic job of the board is to handle the knots, snags, loops, treadmills, and other necessary detritus that stand in the way of basically having fun square dancing. This includes finding places to dance, contracts, bills, funding, arranging, scheduling, refereeing, calling designating, confirming, and the general "et cetera-ing" that is necessary so you can just show up and dance. In essence, the board takes the year, chops it up, shakes it, rearranges it, looks at all the ramifications and possibilities, and then puts it back together. We take the suggestions, ideas, and complaints of the members (club and class) and look at them from the "whole picture" (or we try to — we ain't perfect yet). Rap sessions, bull sessions (is there a difference?), times of frustration and of fulfillment are all part of this. The end result is a year of fun and frolic for the dancers. That's the purpose of

the board — to take care of the flotsam and jetsam so you don't have to. The board guides the club but answers to it as well. The board is a discussion group with voting rights, with the authority to act for and in behalf of the general membership. Once a "momentous" decision is reached, should the consent of the full membership be required, the decision is brought before the club for discussion and voting. At any time, the board welcomes ideas, thoughts, and suggestions from the general membership — all board meetings are open to all, and we welcome you to those. We are always in need of input; occasionally the appearance of a sane mind is appreciated (just not too sane, okay?). Do feel free to join us at any of our monthly meetings — they are announced in advance, time and location.

It should also be noted that there is an opening on the board for a member of the new class, as a representative for the class. This will be discussed during the first few classes, and you'll have time to get to know each other and decide who among you is the best guinea pig. The board is a lot of fun, a source of info (sometimes), and something to really consider taking part in. (The class rep has full input rights, but, at present, no voting rights.)

The foregoing, while perhaps a bit less than absolutely serious, is pretty much the view of what the board is and does from where I sit. I hope it helps.

Once again, I'd really like to welcome all of you! Stick with us; it's gonna be fun! See ya dancin'!

—George

Willkommen... Continued

where and square dance. The next 28 calls constitute the next plateau in square dancing, the Plus level. The Plus class meets right after your class, and you will meet several of these people, helping out with your class (we call them "angels") and attending the Wednesday fun dance sessions. The primary business of Capital City Squares is to teach these two levels of square dancing and to provide activities that encourage dancing at these two levels. You can, however, go on to another level of square dancing called Advanced (divided up into A-1 and A-2, approximately 40 additional calls each). This level is taught by our sister club, Prime 8's, which meets on Monday nights at the William Land School.

Beyond that there are several Challenge levels of square dancing (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-X), which Prime 8's may eventually take on.

While modern western square dancing is made up of all these levels, you may be satisfied with dancing on the Mainstream level, or you may want to stop at the Plus level. That's up to you. A lot of fun and enjoyment (not to mention good exercise!) is available to you in Capital City Squares at these two levels and in other gay (and even straight!) clubs across the U.S. and around the world.

Activities in our own club that promote fun and square dancing are monthly pot luck dinners held at a member's home, occasional all-day workshops (usually 2 a year) that are concentrated learning sessions at your present level

or introductions to a next level, and an annual weekend retreat (held last year in April at Fife's Resort on the Russian River).

In addition, other gay clubs hold invitational activities such as Fly-ins, workshops, retreats, and other events such as the annual convention mentioned earlier. You are encouraged to participate in as many of these activities as you like. The Bay Area clubs — Western Star Dancers, Foggy City Dancers, El Camino Reelers, and Midnight Squares — invite us to many of their activities, and they attend many of ours. All the above may be a bit overwhelming, but I wanted to give you an idea of the scope of gay square dancing and the fun and learning that is available to you whatever your level of participation and involvement. It's up to you!

But right now, during these few free introductory class nights, your job is to see if square dancing is for you. We hope you will become as enthusiastic as we are and become dues paying active members of Capital City Squares.

COME ON, LET'S DANCE!

Eureka!

The Sequoia Ocean Waves, recently organized by former CCS member Mary Ann Murphy invite us to a "Drive In To Eureka" for square dancing and a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, September 9, from 2 to 10 pm. Harlan Kerr will be calling Basic/Mainstream and Adv/Plus. The cost is \$10 for the dancing and dinner. Call (707)444-2775 for information.

Past President III

CCS member and past president Joel Dawes remains very ill but is resting at home at 4821 San Juan Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. The club has sent its best wishes to Joel (and Roy) at this very difficult time, but I am sure that individual cards and letters would also be appreciated.

Camp It Up at Camp Caz

Western Star Dancers are holding their fall retreat at Camp Cazadero on the Russian River October 20 to 22. The charge is \$69 (!) before September 15 and \$85 after September 15. The price includes 6 meals, cabins, dancing, etc. We at Capital City Squares should try to be a "presence" this year and show the people from San Francisco that we can be as outrageous as they are. See George, Bill, or the Flyer for more information.

North Star Promenade

It is not too early to start planning for the I.A.G.S.D.C. Convention to be held in Vancouver, B.C., April 12-15, 1990. It promises to be a lot of fun and is being held in a beautiful part of the world. The registration fee is \$65 US (\$75 CDN) if paid before December 31, 1989. It will be \$70 US (\$80 CDN) afterwards. Single and Double rooms at the Hotel Vancouver convention site are \$95 CDN (\$85 US?) The annual convention is the ultimate square dance trip for a gay square dancer, and we want Capital City Squares to make a good showing.

The Bottom Line on CCS Club Membership

It has been brought to my attention that some of our "members" have been offended by the recent editorials on the subject of dues. Whenever money is an issue, there are sure to be misconceptions. I am, therefore, taking it on myself to offer both my personal feelings and a few raw facts—if you will—The Bottom Line.

First and foremost is the question, "What is Capital City Squares?"

By definition it is surely a square dance club, or better yet an organization. And, yes, we do a lot of square dancing. But we are also a social club, offering an alternative to gay men and women for socialization and support. We try to support our members as well as the gay community in general. When you become a member of CCS, it is, we hope, to offer your support to all our efforts. It is not simply paying a fee to dance.

Next is the question, "Why pay dues?"

Most clubs and organizations have some form of membership dues. They serve two purposes. One is to create the feeling that there is some significance and pride in becoming a member. The other is that there are always costs involved in the day-to-day business of providing service to the club's members.

- Specifically CCS teaches its members square dancing. This

means records and tapes must constantly be purchased. The equipment that plays the records and tapes must be maintained and new equipment purchased as necessary. As an example, a new tape player was purchased just this year for the specific purpose of allowing for an additional "fun night" of dancing twice a month.

- The club buys shirts for all new members as they graduate from the mainstream class, along with a club badge.
- Each hoedown requires decorations, caller fees, rental of a hall, some refreshment costs. The income from the door does not always cover all the costs involved. But we are trying to provide our members with the opportunity to dance to live callers in a fun setting, so we absorb the costs.
- In addition, we have given cash donations to support activities for the Gay Parade and Gay Pride Day.
- We try to send something to show support to any of our members who are ill and in the hospital.
- A big expense is the newsletter, which is our lifeline to all our members. We have worked hard to make it something we can be proud of. But it is not without costs. Printing and postage are required each and every month. We also send it out to other clubs to keep them informed of our activities.
- The club purchases the books of square dance definitions each year and provides them to our members as an assist to the learning process because the better they learn, the more fun everyone will

ultimately have.

- Even the pot lucks are not without cost to the club. We pay for the plates, eating utensils, coffee, etc.
- Last but not least, there are advertising costs during our membership drive every summer and fall and the cost of hosting the new dancers introductory hoedown, which is free to everyone.

I am sure I've left many items out, but my intention is to show that Capital City Squares is truly an all encompassing organization, and by requesting membership in this organization, we are each accepting responsibility for all club activities and offering support for all activities. We are not just paying to dance a designated number of Tuesday nights.

Finally, "What are the dues? How do we collect them? Why all the Hullabaloo?"

Let's take the last question first. The reconstruction of the dues requirement was undertaken in the hopes of explaining why the amount of dues did not change during, say, December, when we broke 2 weeks for the holidays. Dues are for membership on a yearly basis, not week-to-week dancing alone.

Dues are \$90 per year. We collect them at a rate of \$10 a month to make it easier on our members. Each and every one of us find it necessary to occasionally miss a night of dancing or other club function. But we are still supportive members with a financial responsibility. Less often, one of our members may find it necessary to miss a significant block of time, possibly because of illness

or job responsibilities. This is an exception to the rule and without question entitled to special consideration and a waiver of all or part of these dues. The idea of collecting back months' dues from absent members was to prevent the problem of members who consistently come a few weeks, miss a few weeks, and then want their dues reduced. An organization cannot meet its membership's financial needs if a certain amount of income cannot be counted on.

If anyone feels that their ability to participate and support the club is not worth \$90 a year, there is the other option available. We ask that if you want the monthly newsletter, you pay a yearly fee of \$12 to cover expenses. Then if you are able to dance only occasionally, you can pay the guest fee of \$3 per night. Everyone who dances and comes to our functions benefits in some way, and it is hoped that each of you can see that debts are incurred in order to provide each and every one of you with these activities and will gladly support the club financially in one of the above ways.

Nothing we do as a club means anything if it is not ultimately for the benefit of each and every one of you. We exist for and because of our members. We are constantly striving to provide more and more dances, activities, fun. Please help us reach this goal. Your input is always welcome. If I have not eased your minds as to the purpose and collection of fees, please let me or any board member know. And remember, even though there must always be rules in any organization, there will also always be exceptions to those

rules. Our purpose is to give back to our members. With any luck, we will ultimately give back more than we take.

—Kris



Givers and Takers

Square dancing is a lot like life; you change partners periodically; you're always learning something, and sometimes it's painful; and after all that frantic rushing around, you end up right where you started. And square dancing, like life, has its givers and its takers. The givers show up for class—every week, on time (or early!) and sober, read their booklets, listen to the teacher (or caller), and dance as often as possible. Takers show up late, miss class frequently, and are too busy chatting to pay attention to the caller. Givers run for the club board, help to set up or clean up, wear the colors required for the part they dance, thank or compliment the teacher/caller, bring food to the pot lucks, and volunteer. Takers complain or criticize but never offer to help, come late

and leave early, have to be reminded more than once to pay their dues, and expect the people in their square to pull them through the calls. Givers have fun square dancing and can laugh at their own mistakes. Takers look for someone to blame when the square breaks down. Givers come back and angel classes of new dancers, learn to dance the other part, and bring new people into the club. Takers come only when they can get something out of it. Givers let their taws teach week after week without complaining or asking for a divorce. Givers get out at the square dance demonstrations to publicize the club. Givers come back week after week and year after year to support the club that taught them to dance for next to nothing. Takers just go on to learn as much as they want and forget that if they don't nurture new square dancers, they may someday be dancing alone.

Square dancing is a lot like life; you can be a taker or a giver. Let us give, that we can get much in return: meeting people, dancing well, supporting our gay community, sharing good times, and feeling the pride that comes only when we do our best.

—Robin



Square Dancing: An American Heritage

Square dance, the American folk dance, is truly a reflection of the American melting pot. As the early settlers made their way to America from other countries, they brought with them their own traditional music and dances. Bits from French quadrilles, Irish jigs, English reels and Spanish fandangoes slowly mingled together with American customs and the addition of the square, or group of eight people, into our own uniquely American square dance. From the first colonists, people moved about the country, taking their customs with them. Dancing and singing, their music can be traced. Thus, our folk dance form spread throughout America.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford were dancers and promoted dancing by building a hall with a teakwood floor in the 1920's. They also hired a dance instructor, who kept a record book of the traditional dances. Lloyd Shaw, a young man in Colorado, read this book and

decided to do additional research. In the mining camps and farming communities he found the real American folk dance. He was so enthralled with square dancing, he conducted classes. The people who learned from him, in turn, taught others in their own communities, and were instrumental in starting square dance clubs throughout the country.

The first square dance club of record was the Hollywood Go Getters formed about 1940. By the late 1940's in California, the number of clubs was growing so rapidly, the need for organization of the clubs took form in Associations. These associations set rules of dress and conduct, as well as negotiating for public facilities, such as halls and schools, to use for dancing. The rest of the country followed California's example, because these associations did an outstanding job of protecting and promoting square dancing. In 1989, in California, there are 22 square dance associations, representing 588 clubs and 200,000 dancers.

Today, spacious dance floors overflow with dancers of all ages, enjoying the ever-popular square dance. The old time fiddler has been largely replaced by state-of-the-art electronic equipment playing everything from rousing rock music to easy-going ballads. The dancers, as always, are directed by the caller, who chants or sings the calls to the beat of the music.

Along with the basic calls, new, more complicated steps keep the square dance constantly changing, challenging, and fun.

Though it is fun to watch, it is not a spectator activity. So loosen your tie, take off your vest, and dance with the one you love the best!

—Submitted by Jim Pritchard

This Welcome (Back) issue of Capital City Capers is coming out earlier than usual. Therefore, both the September and October Board meeting minutes will be included in the next issue.



The Bylaws of Capital City Squares

Article I: Club Name

The name of the club shall be the CAPITAL CITY SQUARES

Article II: Purpose

It shall be the collective purpose to promote and provide social and recreational opportunities for gay-oriented modern western square dancing.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Membership will be open to any square dancer who is in agreement with the purpose of this club.

Section 2: Membership is contingent upon payment of dues, regular attendance, and a positive attitude. Members will be entitled to attend all club meetings and activities.

Section 3: Dues will be \$10.00 per month, payable by the 15th day of each month, and shall cover the period from the 15th day of the month through the 14th day of the following month. The amount of the dues may be changed by a 2/3rds majority vote of the general membership. Dues will be collected September through June. The board reserves the right to determine whether or not they shall institute dues during the summer months.

Article IV: Elections

Section 1: Nominations for members of the Board of Directors shall be open from March 1st through April 15th of each year with elections being held in the third week of April.

Section 2: Nominees' names will

be placed on a secret ballot and the candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected.

Section 3: The current Board of Directors members will accept the nominations, prepare the ballots and conduct the election.

Section 4: The term of each member of the Board of Directors shall be two years. In order that the club not be left with an entire new Board of Directors, two board members shall be elected during the even years of the calendar and three board members shall be elected during the odd years of the calendar.

Section 5: Should a member of the Board of Directors be unable to complete his/her term of office, the Board of Directors shall hold an election to fill the vacancy, as soon as possible.

Section 6: A member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a 2/3rds majority vote of the membership voting at a general meeting.

Section 7: The Board of Directors shall appoint by May 1st of each year at least the following three officers from amongst itself to conduct the business of the board.

A. Administrator: The administrator will set agendas for and preside over executive board meetings and general membership meetings, is authorized to negotiate and sign contracts and is responsible for the overall continued success of the club, adherence

to the bylaws and any other duties incidental to the office.

B. Secretary: The secretary will take minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and general membership meetings and be responsible for all written communications, maintain the club roster and historical records and perform all duties incidental to the position. In the absence of the administrator, the secretary shall preside at executive board meetings and general membership meetings.

C. Treasurer: The treasurer will maintain financial records in a current and professional manner, administer the club budget, prepare a financial report for all executive board meetings and general membership meetings, collect dues and perform all duties incidental to the office.

Article V: Executive Board

Section 1: The executive board shall be responsible for the formulation of club policy and the day-to-day administration of club matters, as well as any issues not delineated in these bylaws.

Section 2: The voting members of the executive board will be all of the elected members and the club instructor(s). At least four members of the elected executive board will be authorized as co-signatories of the bank account maintained by the club. Two (2) signatures will be requested on each check written.

Section 3: A quorum of three (3) voting members will be necessary for conducting executive board business.

Section 4: The executive board

will meet at least once a month on a regular basis. All executive board meetings will be open to any interested club members.

Section 5: The Board of Directors shall be composed of five (5) elected members and the club instructor(s).

Section 6: The board shall determine amongst itself the distribution of responsibility and authority.

Section 7: Term of office shall be fourteen months with a two month overlap between the outgoing and the incoming board during May and June. The new board will commence on May 1.

Section 8: The executive board may form committees and appoint committee Chairs on an ad-hoc basis and may elect to give voting privileges to the ad-hoc committee chairperson.

Section 9: Robert's Rules of Order shall be the governing authority in instances of dispute.

Section 10: The board assumes the responsibility to ensure that there will be optimum learning each workshop night. Therefore, the board reserves the right to ask any dancer who, for whatever reason, is unable to dance with a modicum of success, to sit out the remainder of that session. The dancer will be encouraged to stay and listen and watch the rest of the lesson.

Article VI: General Membership Meeting

Section 1: The general membership at a general membership meeting shall hold the ultimate decision making authority in this club.

Section 2: At all general membership meetings, a simple majority shall be necessary to carry a motion, unless specified otherwise in these bylaws. Each current dues-paid member will have one vote. Proxy votes may not be assigned.

Section 3: A quorum of 40% of the current dues-paid membership is necessary to conduct official club business at a general membership meeting.

Section 4: General membership meetings will be held at least semi-annually on a regular basis. Additional general membership meetings may be called by the executive board with at least two weeks notice to the membership.

Section 5: Unless waived by the majority present, each general membership meeting will begin with a reading of the minutes of all executive board meetings since the last general membership meeting.

Section 6: Robert's Rules of Order shall be the governing authority in instances of dispute.

Article VII: Amendments

Section 1: Proposed Amendments to these bylaws must be unanimously recommended by the executive board or written copies of the proposed changes must be distributed to all current dues-paid members at least two weeks prior to presentation at a general membership meeting. No voting on an amendment may occur until one of these preconditions has been met.

Section 2: These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3rds affirmative vote of the current dues-paid

members present at a general membership meeting.

Article VIII: Enactment

Section 1: These bylaws will take effect upon approval of 2/3rds of the current dues-paid membership.

Section 2: When these bylaws are enacted, all current officers of the club will finish their terms of office under these bylaws.

Section 3: These bylaws were approved by the current due-paid members on this date: November 1988.

Staff

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Editor, Bill McCrory

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the CCS board

Class/Club Dues:

\$90 a year

\$10 a month

Due on the 15th of the month
Newsletter only: \$12 a year

Capital City Squares Board of Directors

George Fox, Chair

Cindy Sullivan, Secretary

Mary Jo Semmelmayer,
Treasurer

Bill McCrory, Newsletter; Social

Rick Arts, At Large

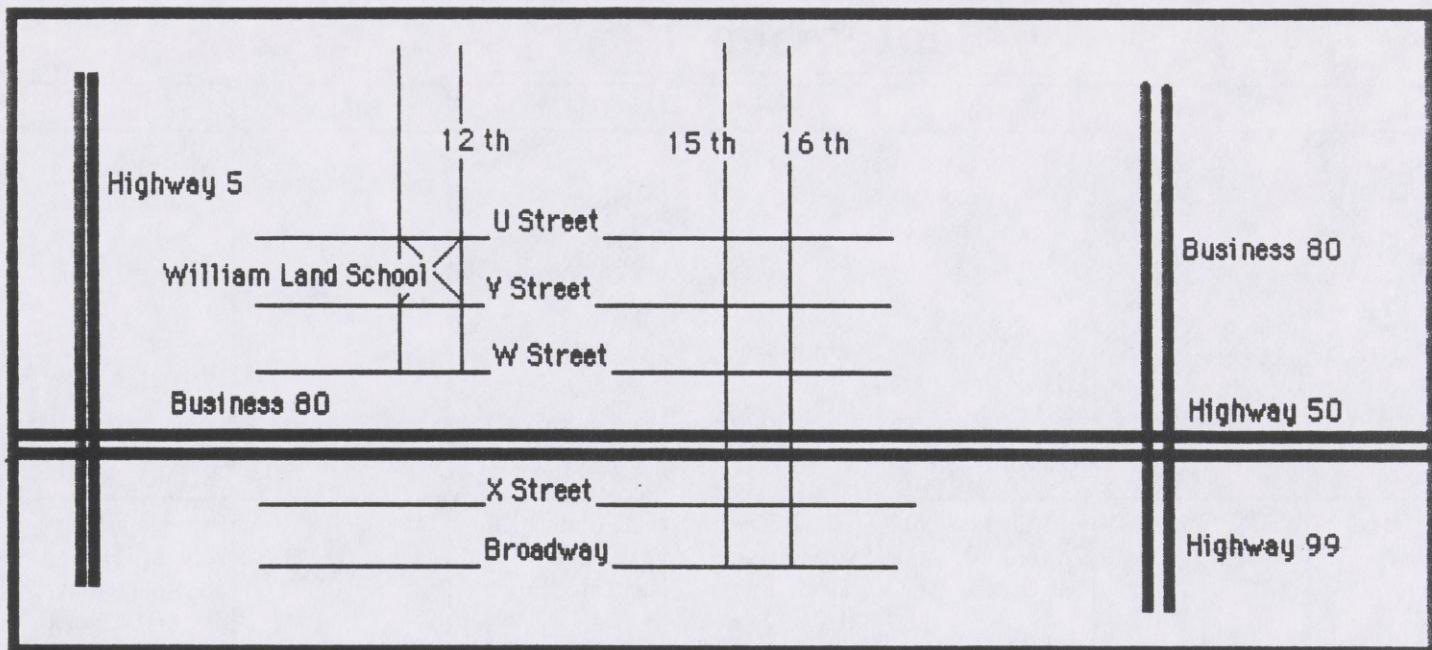
Kris Corbridge, Plus Class
Instructor

Karl Murray, Basic/Mainstream
Class Instructor

Joy TeSelle & Margaret Coelho,
Club History

September 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
MS Live Oak School SF	WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF	FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School SF CCS Class Night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School 12th & V	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF		Sequoia Ocean Waves Dancing and spaghetti dinner in Eureka
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MS Live Oak School SF	WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF Prime 8's 7-9 William Land School 12th & V	FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School SF CCS Class Night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School 12th & V	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF	Chicago CrossFire	Chicago CrossFire
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
MS Live Oak School SF Chicago CrossFire	WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF Prime 8's 7-9 William Land School 12th & V	FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School SF CCS Class Night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School 12th & V	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MS Live Oak School SF	WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF Prime 8's 7-9 William Land School 12th & V	FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School SF CCS Class Night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School 12th & V	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Capital City Squares
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